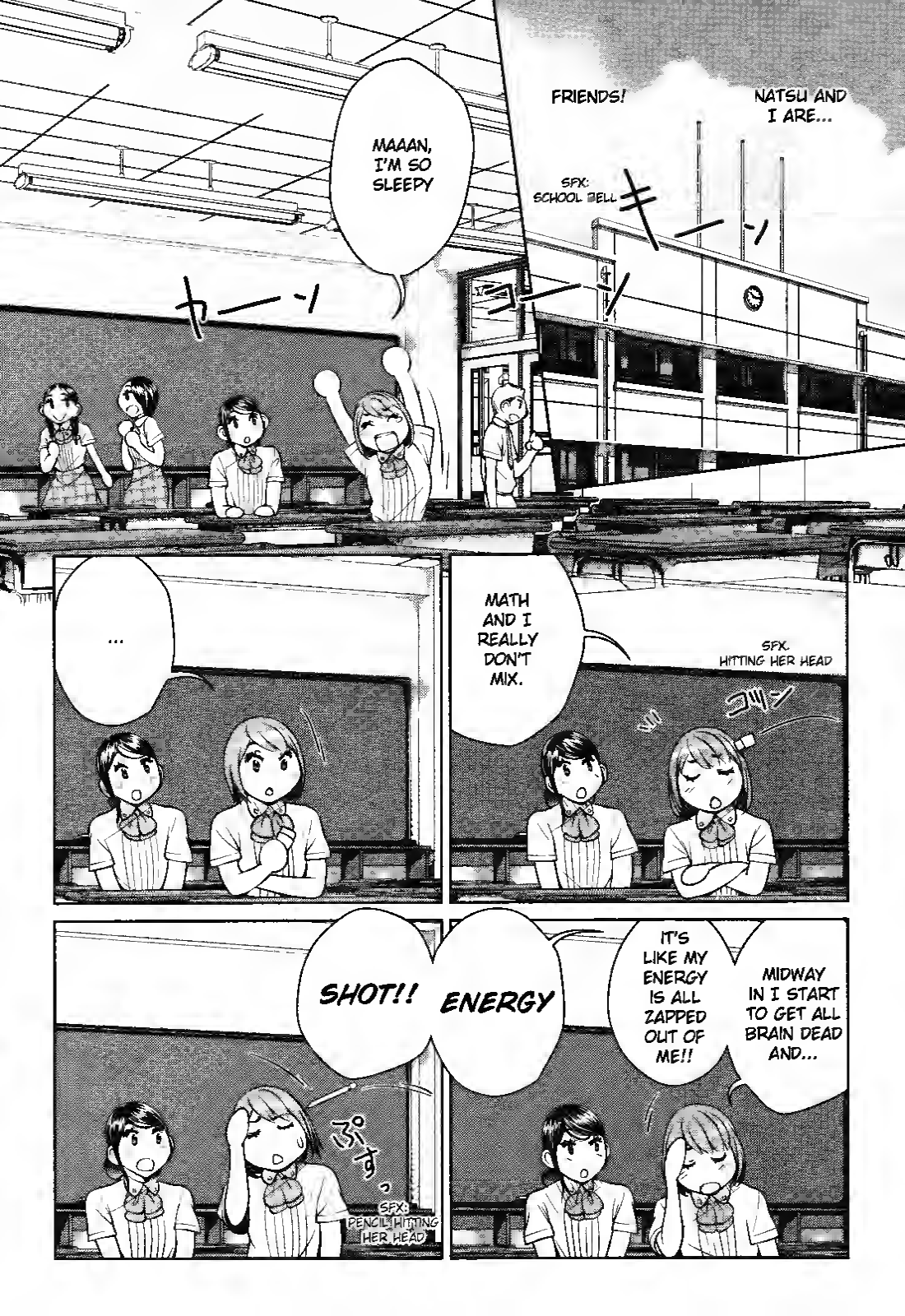
THE PARTING WORDS THAT WERE UNEXPECTEDLY FLUNG AT HER...

I HAD A DREAM OF THAT DAY
AS IF PUTTING MYSELF IN CHECK FOR YESTERDAY
apocalypse
アポカリプス
Chapter:2
倉田嘘
Uso Kurata

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE I MOVED HERE AND ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL.
CONSIDERING BACK THEN I WAS AFRAID OF EVEN LEAVING MY OWN HOUSE,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH MY MIND WHEN I SAID "ALONE, AS A COUPLE."
I'M SO WEAK.
SFX: SNAPPING HAIR ACCESSORY
パチン
SFX: SLAPPING FACE


MAAAN, I'M SO SLEEPY
カーン
FRIENDS!
NATSU AND I ARE...
SFX: SCHOOL BELL
キーン
...
MATH AND I REALLY DON'T MIX.
SFX. HITTING HER HEAD
コツン
SHOT!!
ENERGY
ぷす。
SFX: PENCIL HITTING HER HEAD
IT'S LIKE MY ENERGY IS ALL ZAPPED OUT OF ME!!
MIDWAY IN I START TO GET ALL BRAIN DEAD AND...

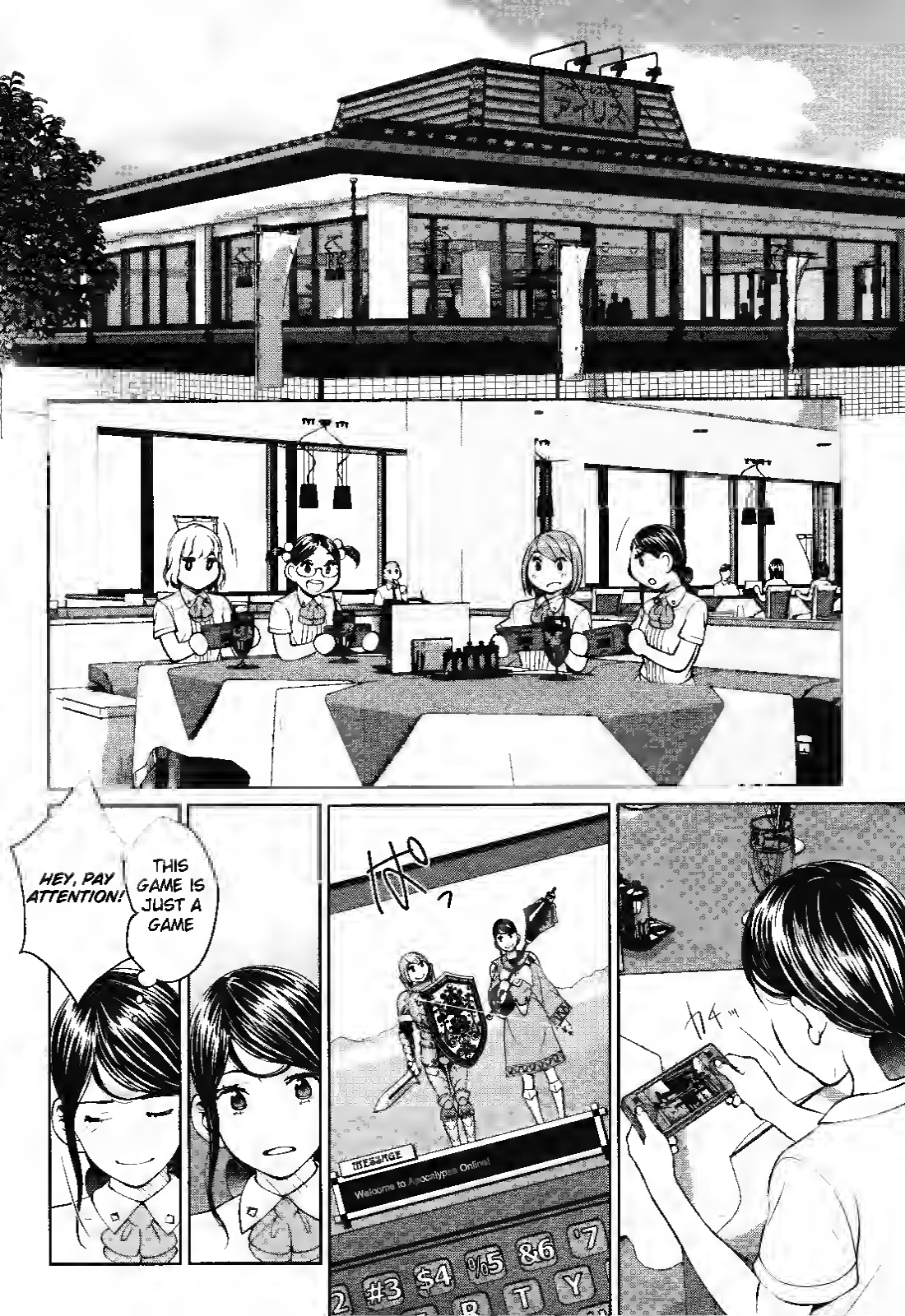
カリカリ〜ん
BUT AREN'T YOU ATTACHING TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO IT?! YOU'RE NOT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER, YOU KNOW!!
STRAIGHTEN UP!! I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU LIKE THAT GAME TO A RIDICULOUS EXTENT,...
HEY!!
WHAT IS LIFE TO A CHARACTER IN A GAME?
A GAME IS A GAME
EXCUSE ME?
BUT EMPATHY IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE GAME.
YOUR CHARACTER IS ANOTHER SELF! SO MMO'S ARE ANOTHER LIFE!
AH
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD KEEP PLAYING.
WHAT-EVER, YOU'RE BORING ...
DON'T TAKE THE GAME SO SERIOUSLY.
I WON'T
LET'S FIGHT, ALL OUT!
A CHARACTER IN A GAME, YOU SAY?!
OUT OF THE QUESTION

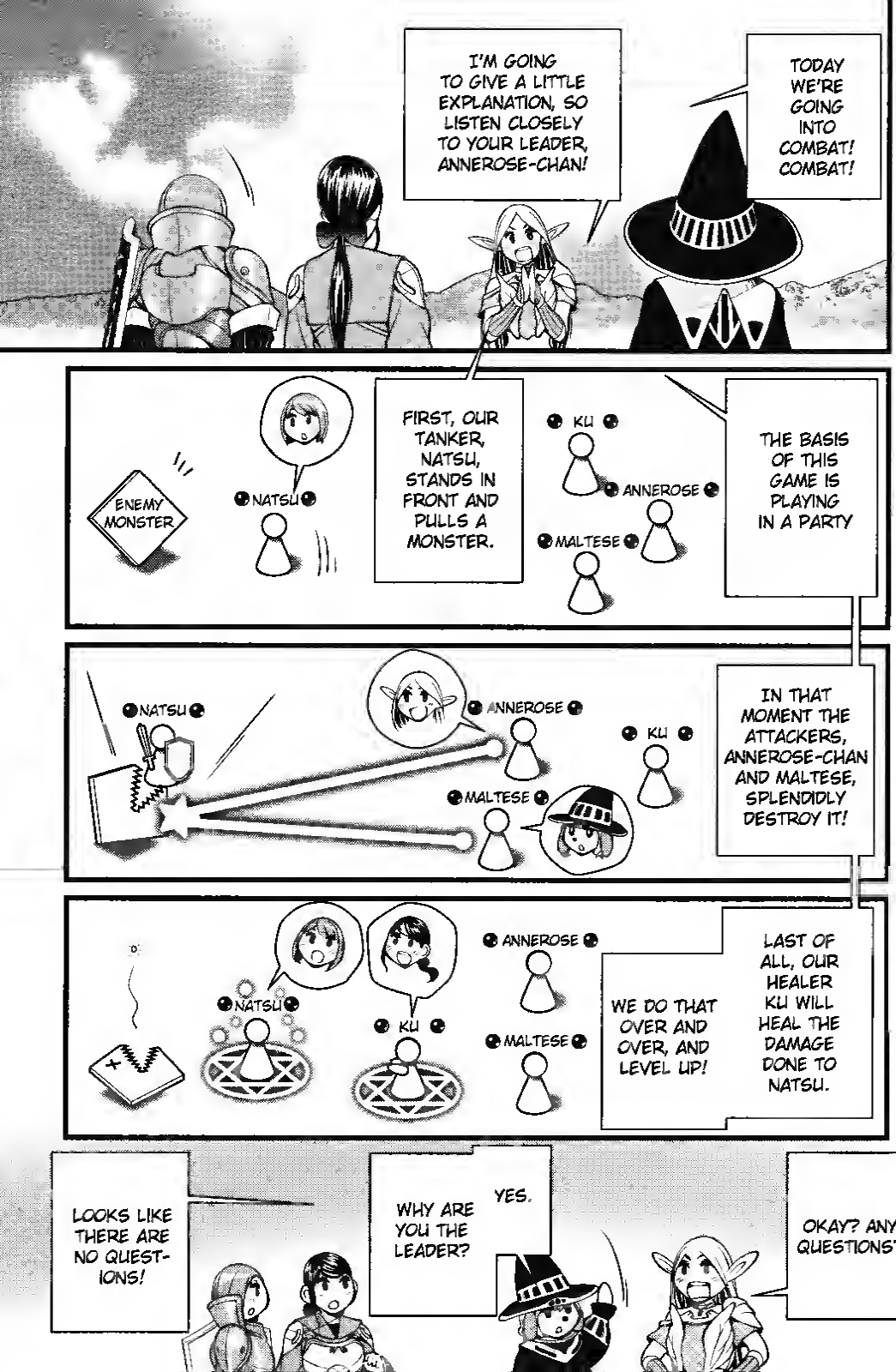
EVEN MITSUOGI-CHAN IS BECOMING EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED.
SHE GAVE MATSUBARA-CHAN A RING AND SAID THEY WERE LOVERS.
NO WAY! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! MITSUOGI-CHAN SAID THAT?!
IT'S OKAY, I WON'T TELL ANYONE.
SEE, THAT'S JUST IN THE GAME! THAT'S OUR CHARACTER'S STORY!!
OUR CHARACTERS JUST GOT ALONG SURPRISINGLY WELL.
THERE'S NO WAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD REALLY HAPPEN, YA KNOW?
AH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
I MEAN, THERE'S ALSO SOMEONE WHO SAID SHE'S CONTINUING THE GAME BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T GET TO HANG OUT WITH YOU ENOUGH ...
WITH ME?
UM, IT'S NOTHING...
... DID ERI-RIN SAY THAT?

NOPE
A CHARACTER IS JUST A CHARACTER.
ANOTHER SELF!!
A CHARACTER IS AN ALTER EGO!!
COME ON, HAVE SOME IMAGI-NATION!
...
...
HUH?!
KU, MATSU-BARA-CHAN, WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
COME TO THINK OF IT...

IT WAS NOTHING BUT A CHARACTER.
STATUS
NAME Ku
RACE Human
SEX Female
CLASS Mage
HP 148
MP 250
WHEN I FIRST MADE MY CHARACTER,
...
I RECALL THAT I WAS THERE.
ISN'T THIS GREAT?
WE LOVE EACH OTHER
BUT THE MOMENT THAT HAPPENED...
A GAME IS JUST A GAME.
A CHARACTER IS JUST A CHARACTER.
WASN'T THERE WITH ME!!
BUT NATSU...

SFX: SCHOOL BELL
THIRD PERIOD'S STARTING!
NO- THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
EH... COUPLES ONLY?! DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
SHE'S BACK TO HERSELF
AH
I DON'T REALLY CARE EITHER WAY
SURE, SURE
ANYWAY, AFTER SCHOOL TODAY LET'S SPEND ALL OUR TIME PLAYING THE GAME!!


THIS GAME IS JUST A GAME
HEY, PAY ATTENTION!
MESSAGE
Welcome to Apocalypse Online!


I'M GOING TO GIVE A LITTLE EXPLANATION, SO LISTEN CLOSELY TO YOUR LEADER, ANNEROSE-CHAN!
TODAY WE'RE GOING INTO COMBAT! COMBAT!
ENEMY MONSTER
NATSU
FIRST, OUR TANKER, NATSU, STANDS IN FRONT AND PULLS A MONSTER.
KU
ANNEROSE
MALTESE
THE BASIS OF THIS GAME IS PLAYING IN A PARTY
NATSU
ANNEROSE
KU
MALTESE
IN THAT MOMENT THE ATTACKERS, ANNEROSE-CHAN AND MALTESE, SPLENDIDLY DESTROY IT!
NATSU
KU
ANNEROSE
MALTESE
WE DO THAT OVER AND OVER, AND LEVEL UP!
LAST OF ALL, OUR HEALER KU WILL HEAL THE DAMAGE DONE TO NATSU.
LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS!
WHY ARE YOU THE LEADER?
YES.
OKAY? ANY QUESTIONS?

WOLF
I KNOW WE JUST STARTED BUT...
OH
RIGHT THERE IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR OUR FIRST TARGET
LOOK, ITS COMING! GUARD YOURSELF WITH YOUR SHIELD...
OKAY
GIVE IT A TRY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SHE'S PRETTY UNSTEADY.
SFX CHOMP!

THIS IS SURPRISINGLY DIFFICULT.
A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
IT'S JUST A GAME, DON'T GET MAD
SORRY, I'M NOT ANY GOOD WITH THESE COMPLEX CONTROLS
SFX: FU...
??
IF THE TANKER'S NOT ANY GOOD THE WHOLE PARTY WILL COLLAPSE.
THEN TRY HARDER!
BEHIND YOU!!!
NATSU!!

NATSU!!
SHEESH. IT'S CAUSE YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION.
THERE'S NO EFFECT.
WOW, IT'S STRONG. SINCE YOU'RE A BRAND NEW PLAYER, I GUESS YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR IT.

AT LEAST SINCE YOUR LEVEL'S SO LOW THERES NO PENALTY
AH... YOU'RE GOING TO DIE
DANG

MATSUBARA-CHAN, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HEALING AND JUST STAY BACK WHERE YOU WON'T GET HIT...
MATSUBARA-CHAN?

NATSU!!!
AH, HEY!
LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR LEADER SAYS!!
THE CLOSER I GET TO HER
THE STRONGER THE EFFECTS OF THE RING WILL BE!!

Natsu Lv.1
HP
MP
EXP
HEAL! BREATH OF HERA!!!
HER HP IS ALMOST BACK TO THE MAX!?

...TSU
ナoアアア
BUT IT'S POINTLESS... NOT ONLY IS THE MONSTER TOO STRONG FOR YOU BUT...
YOU'RE ALMOST OUT OF MP.
HEAL...
UGH...!!

STOP IT!
STOP HURTING NATSU!!
GO AWAY!! YOU...
MON... STER...

MESSAGE
Your character has died.
Press A to jump to the nearest resurrection point.

MA-MATSUBARA-CHAN?
IT'S JUST A GAME, RIGHT?
AH...S-
AH...
I DID IT-AGAIN
SORRY

ALONE...
GOOD MORNING, NATSU! ... UMM ...
SORRY FOR YESTERDAY! IT'S JUST A GAME, AND I ACTED ALL...

PLAY AND WALK AT THE SAME TIME AND YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF!
MGP?!
AH
GOOD MORNING, KU...
YOU'RE RIGHT... IT'S JUST A GAME...
JUST A GAME...
YEAH, I KNOW...
BUT STILL...

WHEN I SAW YOU LIKE THAT, YESTERDAY...
MY CHEST GOT ALL TIGHT AND ALL.
EXPERIENCES IN LOVE AND IN THE GAME ARE RISING!
MAKING ME THINK THE NEXT TIME WE PLAY I'D BETTER GET STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT...
MY WIFE AT LEAST...
はは
SFX: HAHAHA
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Apocalypse
Chapter 2

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